

a3

23. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the molecules comprise polynucleotides, polypeptides, polysaccharides, or combinations thereof.

Please add the following new claim.

a4

26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transferring molecules from the matrix to the laminate comprises forming covalently bonds between at least a portion of the molecules and the linking agents.

REMARKS

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as requested in the Office Action. No new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of the amendment.

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 12-15 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended. Claims 2, 16-22, 24, and 25 have been canceled. Claim 26 has been added. Claims 1, 3-11, 23 and 26 remain under consideration.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 16-21 and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 6 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants consider to be their invention. No new matter is introduced by the amendment. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the application and, in particular, in original claims 2, 16, and 20.

Claim 23 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants consider to be their invention and to change its dependency from claim 16 to claim 1. No new matter is introduced by the amendment.

Claim 26 has been added to recite the method of claim 1 wherein the step of transferring molecules from the matrix to the laminate comprises forming covalently bonds between at least a portion of the molecules and the linking